

REMARKS

A Petition extending the period for response for three months, to July 23, 2008, is being filed separately, but concurrently herewith.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 21 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §101

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, applicant has amended claim 8 to include a processor configured to analyze one or more software solutions by a plurality of agents. In light of this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0233581 to Reshef et al. ("Reshef") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,783 to Hubbard. On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reshef in view of Hubbard, and further in view of Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA). On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 3-5, 10-12 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reshef in view of Hubbard, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2004/0064722 to Neeley et al. ("Neeley"). On page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 14 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reshef in view of Hubbard, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0236994 to Cedar et al. ("Cedar").

The Present Invention

The present invention teaches a method and system for the automatic detection and correction of security vulnerabilities in both individual software components and across complex, multi-component software solutions. The present invention utilizes a plurality of vulnerability analysis and fortification tool (VAF) agents to analyze and proactively identify possible ways to attack a software component. Both legal (e.g., a registered user) and illegal (e.g., an unregistered user) interfaces are examined for vulnerabilities. As amended, claim 1 recites "analyzing by a plurality of agents one or more software solutions to identify legal and illegal external interfaces thereto . . . wherein for each of said one or more software solutions, at least one separate agent is utilized. Similar amendments are made to independent claims 8 and 15.

Applicant has amended the claims so that they now require at least a one-to-one relationship between a software solution begin monitored and an agent (" . . . wherein for each of said one or more software solutions, at least one separate agent is utilized.") Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, paragraph [0011] of the application as filed. This allows independent use of agents in a distributed system scattered over multiple locations. None of the prior art, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests such a novel and non-obvious arrangement. In light of the

foregoing arguments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the RCE filing fee, any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461. A Petition for extension of time is being filed separately, along with authorization to charge the extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-4364.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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